

have the same designs, too, and that all my measures directed towards a change in the government and of the country. . . . I am assured that the marriage of the Prince of Orange and my niece will dissipate some of these suspicions, and will greatly serve to show that I have no design not in accordance with the laws of England and the religion therein established. This destroys the cabals which might be made, and puts my nephew in my interest. I thereby confound the hopes of those seeking a pretext for rising against me and trying to get the Prince of Orange on their side by making him conceive pretensions which he can only found now upon my friendship for him and his real attachment to my interests.¹

Apart from a brief mention of Mary's kindness to Monmouth during his exile in Holland, Macaulay has no further occasion to mention her until 1687, when the growing discontent with the arbitrary policy of her father turned the eyes of most Englishmen towards her husband as their deliverer. Then a short account of the first ten years of her married life is given. William's marriage, Macaulay wrote,

had not at first promised much domestic happiness. His choice had been determined chiefly by political considerations : nor did it seem likely that any strong affection would grow up between a handsome girl of sixteen, well disposed indeed, and naturally intelligent, but ignorant and simple, and a bridegroom who, though he had not

completed his twenty-eighth year, was in
constitution older
than her father, whose manner was chilling,
and whose
head was constantly occupied by public
business or by
field sports. For a time William was a
negligent husband.
He was indeed drawn away from his wife by
other women,
particularly by one of her ladies, Elizabeth
Villiers, who,,
though destitute of personal attractions, and
disfigured by a
hideous squint, possessed talents which well
fitted her to

¹ Campana de Cavelli, *Les derniers Stuarts*, i. 201. Ci
Burnet, i. 408-11.